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The Octofoil

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## The Octofoil, November/December 1985

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$5.00 per year - \$1.50  
will be earmarked to pay for the Octofoil

Volume XXXV Number 5

Nov Dec 1985

## Nashville country a lesson in history

Those who tire easily of Conway Twitty, Waylon and Willie, and *I Saw the Light* can find happiness in Nashville sans country music, provided they have a healthy interest in the city's other drawing card — history.

Long before the first yodel warbled and the first steel guitar twanged in a Music City recording studio, Nashville already carried the title, "the Athens of the South," because of its rich culture and stylish architecture.

Much of the city's antebellum splendor is preserved, but the most obvious reminder of the Athens connection is a modern-day wonder, the Parthenon in Centennial Park near Vanderbilt University. The Parthenon, billed as the world's only reproduction of the Greek monument, is impressive, all right, though a bit incongruous with the rest of Nashville.

But to go back to the city's real beginning, Fort Nashborough at Riverfront Park is a logical starting point. This reproduction of the original stockade built to shield Nashville's first settlers in 1780 features exhibits of pioneer relics. Admission is 25 cents and it is closed Sundays and Mondays.

The Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, is a National Historic Landmark with elaborate gardens and is one of Nashville's top tourist attractions. Admission is \$3.75 for adults, and its Rachel's Lane location can be reached via Old Hickory Boulevard.

The Tennessee State Capitol at 505 Deaderick St. was completed in 1859 and is an excellent example of statehouse architecture. Tours are free.

Forget conventional transportation and take a tour on one of the city's several riverboats plying the Cumberland River.

The Belle Carol Riverboat Co. operates the 400-passenger Music City Queen and the 250-passenger Captain Ann sightseeing vessels from the Riverfront Park dock near Fort Nashborough. But the newest kid on the dock is the General Jackson paddlewheel showboat puffing in from Opryland.

Opryland itself is another example of the ubiquitous theme park, this time set on 120 acres and revolving around a Music City theme.

But the rides, restaurants, games and shops take a back seat to the dozen or so lavish stage productions that set this park apart from, say, Disneyland or Astroworld.

Also, no other park in the world can claim to have the King of Country Music, Roy Acuff, as an actual resident, or the Grand Ole Opry as a supplementary attraction. An admission price of \$13.50 generously allows three days of entertainment during peak summer seasons (two days in spring and fall). Entrance is on Music Valley Drive.



### 1986 Nashville Reunion Program Ninth Infantry Division Association

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 26th

REGISTRATION.....10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY  
GOLF OUTING.....12:00 NOON  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING.....4:00 P.M.  
OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION.....8:00 P.M. - 11:30 P.M.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 27th

REGISTRATION.....10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY  
BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.....10:00 A.M.  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.....11:00 A.M.  
LADIES MEETING AND SOCIAL.....11:00 A.M.  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING.....3:00 P.M.  
GRAND OLE OPRY THEATER.....9:30 P.M.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 28th

REGISTRATION.....10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY  
MEMORIAL MASS.....8:30 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.  
MEMORIAL CEREMONY.....10:00 A.M.  
AFTERNOON VARIETY.....12:00 NOON  
EVENING MASS.....4:30 P.M.  
BANQUET.....6:30 P.M.

### REQUEST FOR SPACE IN REUNION SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK

Full Page \$50.00      Half Page \$30.00  
Quarter Page \$20.00      Eighth Page \$10.00  
Booster Ads \$2.00 name and unit  
Please make checks payable to 9th Infantry Division Association (9th Inf. Div. Asso. is acceptable) and send together with Ad copy to. The Reunion publicity and Program Book Chairman:  
Elmer Wagner  
2833 Hotchkiss Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48706  
Booster and ad deadline is May 6, 1986.

## Worcester Memorial

On November 10, 1985 the troops again were called by Fr. Connors to assemble at Immaculate Conception Church on Gold Star Boulevard, Worcester. The aged, yes we are all getting along in years, some with handicaps and the healthy answered the call. For the 41st time more than 500 wearers of the OCTOFOIL attended our Memorial Mass for our deceased members who did not return plus for the many who answered the call and are now departed from this land.

This Memorial Mass as well as those for the past 40 years is close to the top of priorities for Fr. Connors. He always called us "His Family". From the first Mass at St. Peter's to the first dinner at the old Bancroft it soon became apparent that if this devotion were to continue Fr. Connors would need help. In the early days Sylvester (Red) Byrne was on call whenever work had to be done.

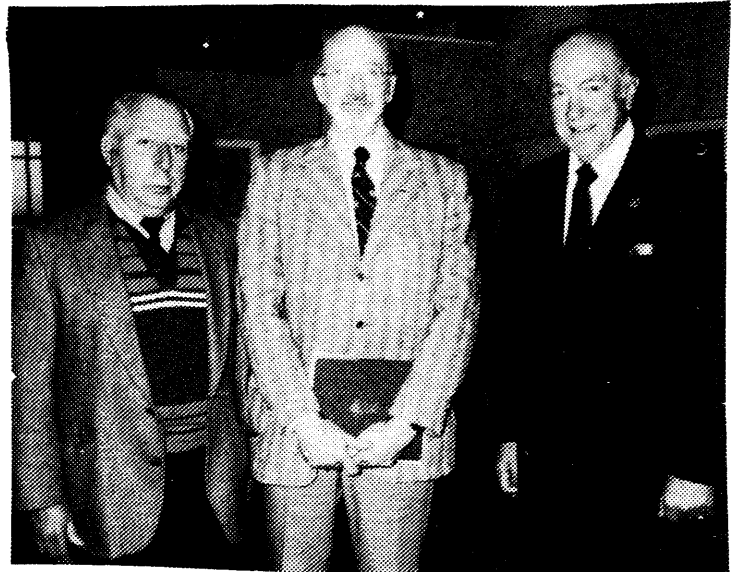
His most faithful helper for many years has been Francis Maher, 14 Davenport St., Worcester. Fran or Franny as most men call him learned his lessons very well. Fran was very helpful to Fr. Connors in making arrangements with the Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church for the use of his Church on November 10th. We are very grateful to the Pastor and Parishoners at Immaculate for their many kindnesses during the past 41 years. A visit had to be made to the Worcester Police Department to obtain permission to use the Honor Guard during our Memorial service. Floral arrangements had to be made for both inside and outside the Church. Musical arrangements and permits had to be obtained so that our parade from the fire station to the Church could proceed as planned. Fran was also the man who saw that you had a roof over your head upon your arrival in Worcester. Planning the Saturday night Buffet, the Sunday dinner and the mailing of over 500 letters were a few of the details necessary to make a success of this undertaking. Thank you Fran, for a job well done. Herb Olsen, Tom Boyle, Fred Demore and Ronnie Murphy ably assisted Fran with many of his problems.

The Roving Reporter  
Joseph A. McKenzie  
95 Washington Ave.  
Waltham, Ma. 02154



*The Editors of the Octofoil are grateful to all those who sent the beautiful Christmas cards and wishes for the New Year. We would like to wish all the members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to our Jewish members and families a Happy Hannukah.*

## Division History Placed in Library



On November 22, 1985 a copy of the Division's History "8 Stars to Victory" was presented to the University of Hofstra of Long Island, New York. Shown at the presentation are l-r: Vince Guglielmino 1st Vice-President, Charles R. Andrews accepting the book for the University and the President of the Association Norman Caswell who presented the book.

The New York Chapter can finally report that our Division history "Eight Stars to Victory" was officially placed in the Library in Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y. on Friday November 22, 1985 — dedicated to the 4581 we lost during World War II.

The book is placed on the ninth floor in the New York State Historical Collection. The library has over one million books and is the sixth largest in the country.

Norman Caswell, the Association President, presented the division history to Mr. Charles R. Andrews, Dean of Library in behalf of Hofstra University.

On the inside front cover is a dedication: "To the Gallant Men of the 9th Infantry Division"

The security in the building is unbelievable. As former G.I.'s we were astounded.

As usual any time the 9th Division Association makes plans for any kind of a gathering the weather does NOT cooperate, and this day was no exception. It was a mean, dreary day, heavy rain all day but we must say nineteen of our men did attend the brief ceremony.

We had the privilege of seeing where these so called historical books are kept and it is wonderful the tender loving care they receive. It is a library within a library.

Truly we are honored by having Hofstra University accept our division history and have it placed in the Historical Collection where so few are accepted.

ADOLPH WADALAVAGE  
94-30 96th St.  
Ozone Park, N.Y. 11416

## Sick Call

As reported in the last issue of the Octofoil Father Connors remains on Sick Call and we feel certain some letters and cards would cheer him up a bit. Although he was not one of the Chaplains of the 47th we remember him back in 1943 when we were heading into El Guettar and he assisted Father Butcher, then the Chaplain of the 47th. Father Connors heard as many "Confessions" as possible and told the remaining men he would give "general absolution." Many men of the 47th went off to meet their God shortly after this and I have never forgotten this incident.

Through the association we have become very "close" to Father Connors and after hearing about his Memorial Mass in Worcester (he started in 1945) we began to make this Pilgrimage about 35 years ago. Men of all faiths coming together to pray for "our dead," yes it was Father Connors that brought us all together.

We were privileged to make the trip to Europe in 1970 with Father Connors and 165 members of the association and their families. Old Jack Scully and Nick Palega (both gone now) myself and Father Connors rode in the same bus together for most of the trip, that is on the Continent, and we shared many a laugh together. Yes fond, fond memories.

The good Father is in and out of the hospital but his mail can be sent to: Father Edward Connors, 87-5 Park Avenue, Worcester, Mass. 01605.

We understand that General Donald Clayman is coming along nicely and expects to visit Red Phillips in California.

Jake Laskau who also was reported on Sick Call in the last issue of the Octofoil is up and about and he made the Pilgrimage to Worcester for the Memorial Services this past November.

**June 26-28  
Reunion in Nashville  
1986**

THE OCTOFOIL  
Form 2579 should be sent to  
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087  
Octofoil Associated Editors  
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Kinsington, Md 20795

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39 Hall Avenue  
Sommerville, Mass 02144

Daniel Quinn Secretary  
412 Gregory Avenue  
Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Honorary Member Emeritus  
Father Edward Connors

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$5.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$5.00 earmarked for the issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N.J. of any change in address.

Published five times yearly, May, June, July, — Aug. Sept. Oct — Nov. Dec., Jan-Feb., Mar-April by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

Publication No. 402820

Volume XXXV Number 5

Nov Dec 1985

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call Column? Just a postal card would denote your interest and let some buddy know where you are. You like to read what other members send in . . . why not do your own part, and write a few lines now and then for their enjoyment.

#### THE MEMORIAL FUND OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Scholarship Information

The Memorial Fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association to commemorate the memory of their comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in battle. As a part of this fund the association established a scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded each year to relatives of men who served in The Ninth Infantry Division. Each scholarship is for one year.

##### ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be related to a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference. Applicants who are not children of former members of the division will not be considered unless no child of a former member qualifies.

##### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.
3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school, he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.
4. The applicant must take the PSAT which is given every October. The applicant must see that the results of the PSAT are sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee. These results may be included with the high school transcript or sent to the chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. The SAT of the CEEB may be submitted in lieu of the PSAT.
5. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
6. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
7. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
8. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
9. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, Rt. 4 Box 50A Crystal River, FL 32629.

##### Board of Governors

1986  
Larry Ghree  
Tulsa, Okla  
Robert Pappas  
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Cheverly Manor, Md.  
Elmer Wagner  
Bay City, Mich  
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Fontana, Wisc

## Send Reservations for Rooms Directly to Hotel

Radisson ® Plaza Hotel Nashville  
Two Commerce Place  
Nashville, Tennessee 37239

9th Infantry Division Association  
1986 Annual Convention  
ALL REQUESTS FOR THE ABOVE GROUP MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 28, 1986

DON'T FORGET —  
MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER  
PAYABLE TO RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL  
NASHVILLE  
DO NOT SEND CURRENCY.

DATES June 26-28, 1986

Please reserve accommodations for	Print or Type
NAME	COMPANY
LAST	FIRST
ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE
SHARING ROOM WITH	NO. OF PERSONS
SIGNATURE	NO. OF ROOMS
	PHONE NUMBER
	CHECK IN TIME 3:00 PM
	CHECK OUT TIME 1:00 PM
MONTH DAY YEAR	MONTH DAY YEAR
ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED WITHOUT A CHECK FOR THE 1st NIGHT'S DEPOSIT OR USE YOUR AMEX OR DINERS CLUB CREDIT CARD # TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE 1st NIGHT IF RESERVATIONS ARE NOT CANCELLED 48 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

CREDIT CARD# ☐ AMEX ☐ DINERS CLUB ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD EXPIRATION DATE (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

PLEASE CHECK PREFERRED ACCOMMODATIONS			
Single Occupancy	\$55.00	One Bedroom Suite	\$250.00
Double Occupancy	\$55.00	Two Bedroom Suite	\$325.00
Additional Person	\$15.00	Club Suite	\$110.00-\$130.00
ARRIVING BY	AIRLINES	FLIGHT #	AUTO E.T.A.

IF RATE REQUESTED IS NOT AVAILABLE, NEAREST AVAILABLE RATE WILL BE ASSIGNED. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 CHARGE FOR THE THIRD OR FOURTH OCCUPANT IN EACH ROOM. RATES ARE SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE TAXES. NO CHARGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 OCCUPYING THE SAME ROOM AS PARENTS.

170-221

These rates will apply four days before and four days after the convention.

## Advance Registration for Reunion

June 26, 27, 28, 1986 Reunion  
The Ninth Infantry Division  
Nashville, TN.

Pre-Registration will be used for the 41st Annual Reunion and it is requested that everyone use this procedure which should make it much easier for you and the registration committee. Your check or money order should be sent as early as possible to Secretary Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

Make payable to: 9th Infantry Division Reunion.  
Strip tickets will be \$46.00 per person includes: Registration. Thursday night Welcoming party, Friday night at the Grand Ole Opry (and transportation) and Saturday evening Banquet.

Name	
Unit	
Address	
Guests	

Deadline for Advance Registration will be June 10, 1986. Refunds will be made to those who are unable to attend the reunion and the cut off date for refunds will be June 15, 1986.



John B. Knight Company M 47th sends this photo taken in Fayetteville, N.C. in May 1942. Tony Russo is on his left. Do you think they were heading for the "Town Pump?"

#### NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.  
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name	Serial No.
Street Address	
City	Zone State
I was a member of:	
Battery	Company
Regiment	
9th Div	
I wish to sign up for the following:	
Regular Member, per year	\$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>
THREE-YEAR MEMBER	\$13.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Life Membership	\$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ladies' Auxiliary Member	\$ 2.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Please credit the following chapter:	
Philly-Delaware Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/>
New England	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greater New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington, D.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>

By the time you've learned how to make the most out of life, most of it's gone.

26th FIELD  
ARTILLERY BATTALION  
"Hdqtrs" - "A" - "B" -  
"C" - "Service"

Service Battery had someone new and someone old attending. Alexander Henry Wilcopolski of Chicago attended his first Memorial Mass. Fred Keyes returned home after 25 years. Fred was born and grew up in Boston. Minnesota was his home for all of those 25 years. Fred retired, packed all his belongings, and returned East to stay. Bill Bongiorno is still trying to convince himself that Florida is the place. Harry Fry is enjoying retired life. His wife, Dorothy had a dinner of broiled swordfish for the first time ever. Now she wants Harry to make more trips to New England from Munhall, Penn. so that she can partake of such a delicious meal more often.

During the past summer John and Dorothy flew to Europe on the Concorde, wonderful flight. On the return home they rode Hurricane Gloria for three days on the Queen Mary. Last summer Joe and Jeanette Albanese traveled to Atlantic City to attend the wedding of a relative. Before returning to White River Junction they had to find out for themselves why so many people had to go to Atlantic City. Joe fell for the one arm bandits and had success. \$300.00 worth.

John Quinn, like myself, is in fairly good condition but would not be classified 1A by our draft board. Pergi has retired twice. Without any hobbies to keep him busy or the urge to hit the open road he is again thinking of returning to work. Elmer Roscoe is having a reaction to hip operation he had a few years ago. It is not too pleasant. Had a phone call from the son of Truly G. Hammock, 8406 Copperpenney Terrace, Chesterfield, Virginia. The old boy is over the 70 mark and is very happy with his wood working shop.

Remember in your prayers: Keson Nosek; Keson died August 28, 1985. Paul Griffin; Paul died September 22, 1985.

I am sure that I missed some men from other batteries. It was not intentional. Charge it off to the lack of journalism classes in my younger days.

Here are some ex-26ers seen at the Mass or the dinner: Jim Hennelly, Gerard Leone, Donald Rollar, John T. McColgan, Tom Boyle, Connie Matulis, Mike Scirappa, Everett Linscott and Ed Nelson. John Babbitt still has to make regular visits to a V A Hospital. Gill Pernokas still has much trouble with his legs and feet. Robert O'Callaghan, must be 25 years since he was last seen in Worcester. Bob Warner, still as dapper as ever. Dan Mazeika, always ready to take on any senior golfer. Milton Parrott is enjoying life in the village of Centerville on Cape Cod.

Henry Cappella must be under doctor's care. He was missed at Worcester.

Joe McKenzie



This photo is dated 12/26/44 - the area Sourbrodt, Belgium shows Pvt. Frank Marrotta and Pvt. Peter Krenick of A Bty, 26th FA looking out of their foxhole.

Michigan Doings

This is the time of the year when joy should prevail. However, we must mention the death of Tony Repetti and Ervin "Pop" Zucker. Two F Co. 47th Infantry men who will always be fondly remembered by those who knew them way back then. May their souls find rest and their families know the peace that passes all understanding.

Life goes on and those living must that which is their allotted work in this world.

The Michigan Chapter, along with others, joined with the Illinois Chapter at Angola, Ind. for the Annual Out State Meeting in October. While there we elected officers for 1986. That was the extent of our business the rest of the time enjoying the fellowship of seventy four members and guests. Our thanks to Mike and Ann Belmonte and their helpers for a job well done.

At our Annual Christmas Party/Meeting those elected to office were installed. The Michigan Chapter officers for 1986 are: Leonard DeBell President, Percy Hough 1st V.P., Jim Bruner 2nd V.P., Rodger E. Alsgaard Secy., Elmer Wagner Treas., Donald Lewis Adjutant, Everett Tapp Chaplain and Bille Martin Historian.

While at Angola there was some talk of holding an out state in Wisconsin. Maybe the Illinois Chapter could work with those interested and host an out state in Wisconsin in 1987. The Michigan Chapter has made reservations with Holiday Inn to meet in Angola, In. in 1986.

I have been in correspondence with Sam Moscatelli of Chisholm, Mn. He is quite interested in having a meeting or even a National Reunion in Minneapolis or St. Paul, Mn. He reports ample hotel space available and much to do in the area. He has been in touch with Laurence Melanson in an attempt to find men from that area who would be willing to help in getting a meeting in that area.

Sam also reported on visiting Joe Podany in Minneapolis saying "He's not in the best of shape." He also wrote of one Alex Prosnik who is in Wesley Residence, 5601 Grand Ave. W. Duluth, Mn. 55807. Wesley Residence is a nursing home. I expect that a card to Alex would be most welcome by him.

So now I will close hoping for the best of health to all in 1986. For those ill and infirmed may the Great Physician rest His healing hands on your body.

Rodger E. Alsgaard Sec'y.  
Michigan Chapter  
Ninth Infantry  
Division Association  
2834 Wynes St.  
Saginaw, Mi. 48602

Liberal: someone who would be conservative if only he could afford it.

TO "B" (47th)  
OR NOT TO "BE"

Greetings again to all our "BECO" buddies and friends. Since our last column, we've had some hectic times with illness. We had to cancel our trip to Worcester, Mass. where Ann and I were to attend our 9th Division's Annual Memorial Mass and Ecumenical Services at The Immaculate Conception Church, for our departed comrades and buddies of our beloved 9th Inf. Division. Ann became ill with a Strep Throat and an infection which necessitated our having to cancel all our reservations, just prior to leaving for Worcester. I am happy to report that Ann has made a good recovery and she is now feeling well and in good spirits. In the meantime we learned of our buddy Art Stenzel's illness. As Art tells it to us in his recent letter "like a bolt out of the blue" he had a stroke. Art says "thanks to a wonderful team of doctors, nurses, and the thoroughness of a wonderful hospital", he has the privilege of writing to all of us. Art is feeling much better now, his doctor has put him on a 1500 calories a day diet. Art happily states that his doctor has given him a clean bill of health and also has been able to shed some 20 pounds. Art is taking it easy down at Bayonet Point where he resides with his lovely wife Grace. "BECO buddies and friends: how about dropping a line to Art to wish him continued good health. His address is shown at the bottom of this column.

We wish to thank our BECO buddy Dennis Canedy in supplying us information on what transpired in Worcester during the Memorial Mass and Services, and also reporting to us on the illness of our dear Father Connors. It saddens our hearts in addition to all 9th Div. comrades who were not able to be present in Worcester this year, since it now appears that Father Connors will no longer be able to host this Annual Pilgrimage. To all of us who gathered with Father Connors for most of the 41 Memorial Masses and Services we shall not forget his warm heartedness, dedication, and prayers for all of us, which made us look on the bright side of life. Father, as you requested; we are saying those prayers for you. God Bless You! May good health and continued Blessings be yours for many years to come. We are most fortunate that Father Connors "good right hand man" Father Jerry Rowan will assist in leading our Annual Pilgrimages in the future. Let's all make an effort to help Father Jerry Rowan undertake these services on behalf of Father Connors.

Letters in the mail: Dennis Canedy tells us that his wife Thora's operation was most successful and she is doing fine. A Christmas note from BECO buddy George Grieve. He said he was in the Butler, Pa. VA hospital but hopes to be home by Christmas. Christmas cards also from BECO buddies "Big ED" Sarnocinski and Joe Harvilla. They hope to see us in Nashville at the '86 Reunion June 26-28.

The New York Chapter of our 9th Div. Assoc. is to be commended for having the Division History "Eight Stars to Victory" placed in the Library of Hofstra University. We are reminded by the N.Y. Chapter that the history was placed at Hofstra on behalf of every former 9th man (WW II). When visiting the library the history may be found in the N.Y. State Historical Section - 9th floor.

(Please contact Adolph Wadalavage of the NY Chapter if additional information is necessary.)

To all those BECO buddies and other 9th Div. Assoc. Comrades who wrote us pertaining to the Worcester Memorial Mass and Services; we wish to thank the following on behalf of Ann and myself: Dennis and Thora Canedy, John and Catherine Compagnone, Norman and Alice Caswell, George Apar, Olga Palega, and Adolph Wadalavage.

We sincerely wish all our buddies and friends had a wonderful Christmas holiday. May all of you have a great New Year in 1986! Don't forget the 1986 Reunion in Nashville, Tenn. on June 26-28. This promises to be a great one so make your reservations early. Details are in the Octofoil. Until next time; our sincerest wishes to all our "BECO" buddies and their families.

PAT J. MORANO  
2208 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201  
and  
Art J. Stenzel  
8705 Village Mill Row  
Bayonet Point, Florida 33567

F Company 47th Inf.

The year 1985 had indeed been a sad one for the families and friends of a couple of "F" Company, 47th stalwarts. In last month's OCTOFOIL I reported the death of our Anthony Repetti. What a giant of a man, in the truest sense of the word MAN! Now it is my sad duty to inform our readers of the passing of our highly respected and well loved Irving "Pop" Zucker. Pop died, almost to the day, one month after Tony. Lou Slatnick, Milton Zucker, and I were honored by being asked to serve as pallbearers for Pop. At the time I couldn't help but think how many times Pop had carried me (figuratively) and the rest of us when the going got tough. Frank Smith, our old company commander, said it nicely in a letter to me, "Pop, in his quiet way, gave stability to the company. I can remember a number of times when just Pop's presence was enough to defuse what could have become an explosive situation." It was Frank Smith who had the good sense and perception to recognize both Tony and Pop for the men they were, and to promote them to the positions of responsibility where they were able to make the roughest of lives just a bit more bearable.

In addition to the above named trio, in attendance at Pop's funeral were Ken Yennie, George Gaynor, and Dan Quinn. Afterwards, Pop's lovely daughter told me how often Pop had spoken of us and how excited he had been when he attended our last two reunions at Lake Placid and Orlando. Pop was proud of his role in the Ninth Infantry Division, and he had the warmest of feelings for his "F" company comrades till the end. He will be missed by all.

I also want to report on an obituary that I spied in the Newark Star Ledger this fall, that of our Mike Parachuk. Though he hasn't participated in any of the Association's activities since the war, he will be remembered by all who served with him.

When I called Smig to tell him of Pop's death, he said, "Gee, first Chuck Koskie and now Tony and Pop; it seems that the good ones are going first." I was in complete agreement with him when I replied, "Yes, I guess that's true; I guess you and I will live forever."

Jack Finnegan and I attended the Memorial Mass in Worcester together. We had a pleasant visit there with Googy, Danny, and Bob DeSandy. The service was a highly emotional one, reaching a peak when the good father came out of the hospital to be with the troops and addressed his "family" from the altar.

I have been in close touch with Lou Slatnick, Jack Finnegan, and Dan Quinn this past year and a half. I've also seen Al Munatore, Frank Gonzol, Smig, Yennie, and Gilsenan. Slats, Jack, and I are going to send out notices of a once-a-month meeting place for lunch. We'll be sending these notices to "F" Company when in the area so that they can attend if they're so inclined. We won't be making advance registrations, it will be Dutch treat, and we'll schedule so as to miss the busiest part of the lunch hour. I think an on-going event such as this should attract any number of men from the NY-NJ area. We are considering meeting in different parts of the state to accommodate everyone, but if we locate a restaurant that provides us with exceptional service and facilities, we may make it our permanent meeting place. Also, if any of you outlanders happen to be in the area at the time, you can join us.

I want to report that both Frank Gilsenan and Frank Gonzol are coming along nicely since their recent illnesses. Gilsenan will probably be lunching with us this month. Gonzol returned from his annual six-week winter residence in Florida. He sounded hale and hearty when I talked with him just before Christmas. I also spoke with a number of other "F" Company people this winter: Frank Smith, Dan Quinn (I included Dan with us because of his service with us as both company medic and battalion medic), Otto Geyer, Felton Jones, George King, Smig Tokarchek, and Earl Wilkey. Many of you sent me Christmas greetings, for which I express my thanks. Everyone seems to be well enough, or ably handling what infirmities are plaguing them. My own health has been pretty good. If I could lose about fifty pounds (or grow to about 8 ft. 6 in. to make those charts match up right) I'd probably reenlist. Lucy and I spent most of the holiday season at our beach house. We love it here on Long Beach Island, and we would love to sell our Metuchen home and settle here permanently, but the salaries Lucy has been offered in the area are ridiculous — especially if she wants to continue supporting me in the manner to which I have grown accustomed. She insists on continuing to work — I suspect she fears becoming pregnant if she stays home with me all day!

Lucy and I wish you all a healthy and happy 1986. ON TO NASHVILLE!!!

ED "HOPPY" HOPKINS  
110 Hollywood Avenue  
Metuchen, N.J. 08840

June 26-28  
Reunion in Nashville

Some people never repeat gossip ... you have to listen carefully the first time.

It's no use telling people your troubles — half of them have troubles worse than yours and the other half are glad you're finally getting what's coming to you.



## Minutes of the 153rd Meeting

### Board of Governors

The 153rd meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was held on November 9, 1985 at 4:15 P.M. in the Hotel Sheraton-Lincoln, Worcester, Massachusetts. Attending were Norman Caswell, Carlos Esteve, Dave Heller, Pat DiColli, Elmer Wagner, Gil Pernokas, Lew Gray, Robert DiSandy, Francis Maher, Lou Connors and Ralph Carci. Also in attendance were Past Presidents Emil Langer, Bill Bongiorno, Len Tomassone, Herb Olsen, Ron Murphy and Walter O'Keeffe. Also Pete Radichio, Henry Santos, Fred D'Amore, Adolph Wadalavage, Frank Buzanoski.

President Caswell called the meeting to order and asked the members to rise and salute the Flag and to remain standing for a moment of silent prayer.

Secretary Dan Quinn read the minutes of the 152nd meeting that took place in Orlando, Florida on June 7, 1985 and upon a motion made by Fran Maher and seconded by Lew Gray it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes and have the secretary place copy of same on file.

Tom Boyle was called upon for his report and Tom gave the members a report of the spending and income for the previous quarter. Upon a motion made by Fran Maher and seconded by Lou Connors it was voted to: Accept the report of the Treasurer.

Henry Santos reported on the Florida reunion committee that was held in Orlando on June 6-8, 1985 and turned over to the President a check for \$5474.00, the profits realized from the reunion. President Caswell thanked Santos and the committee for a wonderful reunion and upon a motion made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Bob De Sandy it was voted to: Accept the report of the reunion committee. Upon a motion made by Elmer Wagner and seconded by Lou Connors it was voted to give a stipend of \$100.00 to the Florida Chapter for a job well done.

Robert DeSandy Co-chairman of the 1986 reunion to be held in Nashville, Tenn., was asked to give his report and Bob reported that he and Emil Langer had journeyed to Nashville to tie up any loose ends for the reunion. DeSandy stressed the importance of pre-registration and that the format for the three day reunion will be changed somewhat, for on Friday evening instead of the usual dance the members will take in a show at the Grand Ole Opry. Tickets for the show had to be purchased well in advance in order to guarantee seats for some 600 of our members and friends. Bob and Emil were well pleased with the hotel and the city itself and assured the members that a great reunion will be held in Nashville. President Caswell thanked Bob and Emil for their report.

President Caswell asked these members to serve on the various committees as the National Association will hold this reunion. Elmer Wagner will handle the Journal Committee, Tom Boyle will take care of the registration at the Hotel with the secretary Dan Quinn taking pre-registrations, the Memorial Service Committee will consist of the following: John Clouser, Lou Connors, Vincent Guglielmino and Fran Maher. Emil Langer will take charge of the banquet on Saturday night and the Thursday night

welcoming party. Fran Maher will handle the Friday night - Ole Opry Show. Upon a motion duly made by Carlos Esteve and seconded by Pat DiColli it was voted to: accept the reunion committee's report.

Pat DiColli of the Philly-Delaware Valley Chapter briefed the board members as what to expect in 1987 when their chapter will host the reunion at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

Fran Maher of the Future Reunion sites committee discussed some possibilities for future years.

After a discussion and upon a motion by Carlos Esteve and seconded by Gil Pernokas it was voted by the Members: to donate the sum of \$1000.00 to help defray the expenses of the Worcester Memorial.

The proposal to change the By-laws of the association pertaining to the use of the Memorial Fund was withdrawn.

A discussion on the funds of the association was held and upon a motion duly made by Lew Gray and seconded by Robert DeSandy it was voted to: Reinvest the Capital Fund from a regular savings account into a Money Market Fund with a greater rate of interest. The Marker Fund account will be held for discussion at the June meeting to be held in Nashville.

After a discussion on the possibility of having the association make up a Memorial Card for use at the demise of our members it was made into a motion by Carlos Esteve and seconded by Lou Connors to have the association board members study this proposal and have a report at the next meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Fran Maher and Seconded by Bob DeSandy, it was voted to adjourn at 5:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Quinn  
National Secretary

### Mini Reunion 60th Inf. Co. M

First, I would like to say, "It is certainly commendable the way you and the Octofoil staff work with this so diligently." We always enjoy it so much.

Secondly I would like to say, we are having an "M" Company 60th Infantry reunion here, in the Shoals area June 23-25. The Shoals area is Tusculumbia, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Florence. You really don't know when you are in one or the other; so to be more specific our get together will be at the Holiday Inn, in Sheffield, AL. The exact place we had it two years ago. Already we have 25 registered with 23 wives. We have all ground floor rooms, pool side, also facing this beautiful court yard; the hospitality room is out of this world. You might say or think I am acting prematurely but I learned in law school and as an attorney with the Internal Revenue that procrastination only invites defeat or severe disappointment, consequently I am planning on all of us having a wonderful time, and remember we are only 126 miles from Nashville where the National Convention is June 26-28.

As host for this get together I have asked W.C. Hornady and H.F. Stansell to serve as coordinators, Sect. & Treas. or what ever; to take up the money, buy the beer and booze, pay for the banquet and what have you, and I certainly appreciate them both graciously accepting; so get in touch with either three of us for questions or reservations. Regards to the entire division.

CURTIS BUCHANAN  
2914 Alexander St.  
Florence, AL 35630

## The Human Factor

The following story was written by a 15 year old girl who visited remains of the Remagen Bridge in September 1983. Her name is Marlene Otto, 11533 Wisconsin Avenue, North, Champlin, Minnesota 55316. Adolph Wadalavage was given the article by a member of the 9th Armored Division when they re-visited Remagen this past winter.

September 30, 1984

### Two hours til New York The Human Factor

I realize there is nothing I could write that would bring back the past two weeks of my life. It was at times a fantasy; a land of flying buttresses and foreign tongues, of marches and cries for freedom; of bridges burnt, blown, built, repaired; of multiple blocked corridors manned by God driven human souls carrying supplies on their backs and freedom in their hearts. It was a sharing with total strangers the stories and memories that bound us together. Strangers, we stood together. Some cried for those who did not come back, some cried thanking God for those who did. And so a bond of compassion and caring. We who were once strangers became friends and our friends became our family.

For some it was a reliving of 40 years ago. An event in history they've woke with and went to sleep with. They've lived it. They were there. They took the memory home and kept it burning for 40 years, so much a part of their lives it was. Now, some can go on to the next chapter in their lives. The book will always remain, but they can begin a new verse, a new page, a new song.

I gasped for breath as I stood in the stadium. I could feel the power and hear the voice of the man responsible for so many deaths. I wanted to scream, to cry, to vomit. I wanted to listen, to learn, to share and I wanted to leave.

I stood on the remains of a bridge built for war and destroyed by war. I heard the civil defense sirens blare and felt my flesh crawl with a fear I can only imagine for 40 years ago. And I heard and saw the jet stream across the sky, as if another reminder; while those who lived it told their stories. I watched those men wipe tear stained faces with their weathered, gentle hands. And now I could feel. Now I understand what all the history books in the world will never be able to tell. THE HUMAN FACTOR. A moment in infamy. A moment that will extend from the alpha to omega. A moment that opened my whole being, thoughts, feelings, intellect, heart; to the Human Factor of World War. I was there.

If you are planning on moving please notify the secretary of your new address. It will save postage and keep you on the Octofoil mailing list.



Came upon this photo of the 39th Infantry band dated 11/1/44 taken in the Huertgen Forest Germany, when the regiment was given the chance to take a shower, drink some beer and listen to the music. Bennie Nardone was the leader, shown on the right with him trumpet but we did spot an old friend Herminio Suarez (playing sax), front row fourth from left.

## Tip of the Hat

Remembering the Memorial Fund and their departed loved ones and comrades we thank the following members and friends.

Robert Waldvogel  
Joseph Donovan  
James M. Droney  
John K. Moore  
Boardman Lockwood  
Andrew Kopach  
Anne & Jerry Shapiro  
A.J. Seasock  
Edwin Brewer  
John Thornton  
Ira Rosenfeld  
William Miller  
Charles Titus (In memory of Sgt. Wagner, 3rd Bn 47th)  
A.T. Forrest (In memory of Walter Mills & Thomas Bray, 15th Engrs)  
Mrs. Steve Bobinski (In memory of Ralph Penna & Robt. Gibson)  
Ernest Chandler  
James W. Brown

### STANDS CORRECTED

The Editor  
AUSA News  
P.O. Box 1560  
Arlington, VA 22210  
Dear Sir:

While I am not a member of the Association of the United States Army your publication reaches me from time to time through the thoughtfulness of a friend who is and I do find the occasional article of interest.

In the present case the item recounting your Award for Distinguished Service to J. Willis Cantey caught my eye and with it the comment on his service with the 30th Division and of his being the youngest Battalion Commander in the Army. Not to detract in any way from his outstanding record I would like to submit the names of four of our Battalion Commanders who achieved that command, rank and distinction while serving in the 47th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. Time has shaded my memory as to the precise age for each one as they became C.O's but they were 24, 26, 26 & 27 and perhaps a more accurate assignment can come from Daniel Quinn, Secretary of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. At any rate they were Lt. Col. James D. Allgood, 1st Bn; Lt. Col. Lewis E. Maness, 2nd Bn; Lt. Col. Ray Inzer 2nd Bn; and Lt. Col. William Tanner; 3rd BN.

The 9th Division was a part of VII Corps from D+4 through Normandy and fought along side the 30th on several occasions we also acquired Brig-Gen Hammond D. Birks, formerly C.O. 120th Infantry as our Ass't-Div. Commander for a spell although I do not recall when he left. Perhaps all of this will elicit some replies for the edification of your readers.

Very truly yours,  
Boardman F. Lockwood  
Ex-47th Infantry  
242 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, Conn. 06103

## Taps Sounded

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls: it tolls for thee.

by John Donne

Tom Orband  
Cannon Co 39th Inf

Irving "Pop" Zucker  
47th Inf F Co

Keson Nosek  
26th FA Serv. Btry

Jacob Lessoff  
47th Inf C Co

Amerigo "Snuffy" DeJulius  
Div. Arty. Hqs.

Luke Savage  
47th Inf B Co

Michael Baldi  
39th Inf

George Dohmann  
I Co 47th & 9th Med D Co

Carl McNees  
9th MP

Lloyd Vest  
60th Inf D Co

Paul Morrisette  
60th Inf

Frank Chatto  
C Co 47th Inf

Steve Lelak  
47th Inf Co B

Betty Zweil  
Wife of William of Cannon 47th

May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.

39th Inf.  
MRS. MARGARET BALDI  
227 Sherman Ave.  
Roselle Park, N.J.

This is to inform you that my husband, Michael Baldi Hdq Co. 39th Inf. passed away on March 6, 1985. He died of a heart attack. He was the drummer in the band that Benny Nardone and Charles Double have been trying to locate. I'm just starting to get back on my feet.

60 Inf. Co. M  
MRS. PAUL MORRISSETTE  
116 Liberty St.  
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

My husband Paul passed away on November 2, 1985. He was highly honored to have served in the 9th Division and has spent most of his time since then with the VFW. Among many offices he held in his own post he was currently the Quartermaster of the State of R.I. VFW.

47th Inf. Co. B  
MRS. WANDA LELAK  
802 E. Flag Pl.  
Poinciana, FL 32758

It is a very sad occasion for me to tell you that "Ole Sarge Lelak" passed away Nov. 2. His heart couldn't take it anymore. He died suddenly and went the way he said he wanted to and that's dancing! We were at a Polka Festival and were having a wonderful time. After the last dance he sat down and in 10 minutes he was gone. I'm glad he didn't suffer.

## The Battle That Sealed Germany's Fate

### Forty years later, the Battle of the Bulge Remembered

With acknowledgement of Drew Middleton here's a story that appeared in the Sunday section of the New York Times December, 1984. Drew Middleton covered the Battle of the Bulge for the New York Times. He was the newspaper's military-affairs correspondent for many years and is now a columnist for The Times's news syndicate.

Shortly before dawn on Dec. 18, 1944, the G.I.'s of an American intelligence and reconnaissance platoon of the 394th Infantry Regiment at Lanzerath saw the sky to the east lighted by the flashes of more than 100 guns. Silhouetted against the flashes were scores of German tanks and artillery which, as dawn broke, rumbled through the snow toward the Americans' positions.

#### Start of German offense

The movement, 40 years ago, was the start of the German offensive on an 80-mile front through the Ardennes region of Belgium that has come to be called the Battle of the Bulge, after the triangular wedge in which it was fought. This was Hitler's last great throw of the dice. As Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, the German commander in the field, wrote in an order of the day: "WE GAMBLE EVERYTHING."

Inspired and largely planned by the Nazi dictator, executed by his best generals employing elite panzer (armored) divisions, the offensive came perilously close to its objective of splitting the Anglo-American front and seizing Antwerp, the Allies' largest supply port.

After 43 days of savage fighting, the Germans were defeated, broken. The Wehrmacht in the Western theater of war was finished as a coherent combat force. After the Bulge, every road the Germans took led inexorably to the schoolhouse at Rheims and unconditional surrender.

A great deal more is known about the battle today than in its immediate aftermath. Surviving German generals who were involved in the battle at division level or higher wrote detailed accounts for their army's voluminous records, which subsequently came into Allied hands. Other Allied and German studies based on Nazi documents have also provided new insights.

On the American side, the Battle of the Bulge produced a spate of books. One of the first, published 15 years ago, was "The Bitter Woods," by John S.D. Eisenhower, a young officer during the war who later became United States Ambassador to Belgium; his father, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, was Allied Supreme Commander. One of the most recent is "A Time for Trumpets: The Untold Story of the Battle of the Bulge," by Charles B. MacDonald, a veteran of the battle and a former deputy chief historian to the United States Army. But there are lingering questions. Of these, the most important is the simplest: What would have happened if the Germans had only a few more divisions, another 200 aircraft?

#### Battle won by resourcefulness

The Battle of the Bulge was won not so much by the high command as by resourceful divisional and regimental com-

manders and thousands of battalion and company officers. Above all, it was a soldiers' fight. Although some of the inexperienced G.I.'s behaved badly during the early stages of the battle, the ultimate triumph lay with the American soldiers, who displayed bravery, resiliency and a stubbornness that amazed their enemies and heartened their commanders and allies.

But before the campaign was over, military reputations on both sides had been marred: The German record was sullied by massacres of prisoners of war and civilians and Anglo-American military cooperation at the highest level was impaired by squabbling.

The furious initial success of the Germans shattered conventional military wisdom in London and Paris that the war was almost over. At the time, the 21st Army Group, an Allied fighting force, was making slow but steady progress in the north after the debacle at Arnhem. The American First Army, under Lieut. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, had taken Aachen and was pushing east. Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton Jr.'s Third Army was driving toward the Saar. American and British air forces had established superiority along the entire Western Front.

German armor and infantry pouring out of the wooded hills on Dec. 16 smashed the comfortable confidence with which the Allies viewed their military situation. Today it is evident the Germans had every reason to be confident.

The area of the front that Hitler chose to attack ran snakelike through German-held territory from Roermond in the north toward Luxembourg in the south. By Dec. 15, the Americans had established themselves in a semicircle along the Roer River, east of Aachen. To the south, the German line swung slightly west through the hotly contested Hurtgen Forest, then ran south and southwest paralleling the West Wall, the main German fortified line, until it reached the Moselle River.

Yet the Allies were surprised and came close to being defeated. How could they have let themselves become so vulnerable?

There was an admitted element of risk in the Allied positions. From First Army Headquarters at Spa, a mineral resort town in Belgium, south of Luxembourg, where Lieut. Gen. Omar N. Bradley directed the American 12th Army Group, lay a ribbon of countryside that was only lightly held by the Americans. It was a virtual invitation to German attack.

When questioned by this correspondent at the time about the thinness of the American deployment, Bradley said, "It's a calculated risk; you have to take them in war." One of his staff officers added, "After all, these aren't the Germans of 1940," who in a drive through the Ardennes had smashed a French army and in six weeks had forced the British evacuation from Dunkirk and the surrender of France.

Bradley toured the vulnerable American sector with Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton, whose VIII Corps held 80 or so miles of line with three divisions.

"Don't worry, Troy," Bradley said, "they won't come through here." To which Middleton, no relation to this correspondent replied, "Maybe not, Brad, but they've come through this area several times before."

#### Hitler's projects

Like many of Hitler's projects, the Ardennes offensive was grandiose in its objectives. The Nazi dictator saw the seizure of Antwerp, which could logistically support at least 50 Allied divisions in a drive into Germany, as the primary objective. But he also believed that by driving between the American 12th Army Group north of Spa and the British 21st Army Group in northern Belgium, and the Netherlands he would place the British in an intolerable military situation. With their backs against the sea and no access to a major supply port, they would be forced to withdraw across the North Sea to Britain.

Hitler's belief in himself as a military genius had not been dimmed by his defeat in Normandy, the liberation of Paris or the Allied advance across France and into Belgium. All could be restored by one bold stroke, and he devoted his demoniac energy to the preparation of that stroke.

Through the late summer, Hitler busied himself with plans for the offensive. The attempted assassination on him in July by some of his own officers had enhanced an already obsessive secrecy. He confided his thoughts only to Gen. Alfred Jodl, chief of operations at his headquarters. Not until Sept. 25 did Hitler finally reveal the plan to others on his operations staff.

The offensive, he said, would take place between Monschau, a German town southeast of Aachen, and Echternach, on the Sure River in Luxembourg. Hitler knew that only four American infantry divisions and one armored division occupied the area, and he guessed, correctly, that the wooded area to the east would cover the concentration of German forces for the attack.

A German breakthrough, Hitler told his staff officers, would open a drive to the northwest, crossing the Meuse River between Liege and Namur and smashing ahead toward Antwerp.

Jodl and the military planners made some alterations in Hitler's proposal. The thrust out of the Ardennes south of Aachen, they decided, was to be the major drive, carried out by the Sixth S.S. Panzer Army, with the new 15th Army on its right flank. The Fifth Panzer Army would be on the left.

The generals who would execute the overall plan thought it too ambitious. Hitler had anticipated their opposition, but held firm. Jodl conveyed his master's feelings when he told the generals: "In our present situation, however, we must not shrink from staking everything on one card."

#### Joker in the deck

There was a joker in the deck. Hitler summoned one of his favorites, S.S. Major Otto Skorzeny, who had led a daring and successful raid to liberate Benito Mussolini, the fallen Italian dictator who had been imprisoned on a mountain peak by the government that had deposed him. Skorzeny was

ordered to form a unit dressed in captured British and American uniforms. After the breakthrough, these men were to rush forward and seize the Meuse bridges at Engis, Amay and Huy.

For this, Skorzeny needed men fluent in American-English and English-English. He found only 10 of the former and told the remainder that when they joined the retreating Americans they should pretend to be too shaken to speak.

Although the Skorzeny mission succeeded in throwing a scare into the top brass, it accomplished little on the battlefield. Lieut. Gunther Schulz, one of Skorzeny's team leaders who was captured in the early stages of the mission, told American interrogators that the operation's principal goal was to penetrate the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Versailles, just outside Paris, and assassinate General Eisenhower and other senior Allied officers.

Skorzeny and 50 men, so ran Schulz's account, were to meet at the Cafe de la Paix on the Place de l'Opera in Paris, hardly a talk with Nazi leader that revealed that Hitler had mentioned an offensive "after the beginning of November."

The Allies, MacDonald claims, knew something was brewing on the other side of the line, but they failed to interpret the information correctly. In the heady Allied atmosphere of late 1944, a German offensive involving half a million troops was unthinkable.

The Germans, who had been deceived in the Normandy operation by fake Allied wireless messages, tried the same trick against the Americans, establishing a fictitious 25th Army in the Cologne area. The intercepted false messages may have diverted Allied attention from the real buildup in the Ardennes.

Secrecy and surprise were not the only significant elements. Many of the German armored units had fought in Russia, where, as the tide turned their operations were largely defensive. They had to be reindoctrinated in offensive tactics and trained for night operations over hills and through forests.

It is a tribute to the German soldier and his officers that after more than five years of war they were able to absorb the lessons and launch an offensive notable for its drive and perseverance in the face of what, in the end, were overwhelming odds on the ground and in the air.

Army Group B, under Field Marshal von Rundstedt, was designated as the attacking force. On Dec. 11, its commanders were disarmed and then taken by circuitous routes to Hitler's command post, Adlerhorst (Eagle's Nest), from where the Nazi dictator had directed, or said he had directed, the triumphs of 1940. Until the day he died, Hitler believed that the successful invasions of Denmark and Norway and the defeat of the French Army in 1940 were due to his strategic direction. Setbacks, such as the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk, were blamed on the stupidity or irresolution of commanders on the spot.

After a long political harangue, Hitler confidently told the generals that all the necessary weapons, tanks, heavy artillery and other field guns were in place. Newly activated Volksgrenadier divisions of old men and boys were said to be high in morale and weaponry. And the commanders were told they could rely on air support by 1,000 aircraft drawn from Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering's depleted Luftwaffe, though they received only 800. Brimming with confidence, Hitler





Dated 1/12/44 troops of the 60th Inf trying out their new snow capes as they are being trained as ski troops during the "breakthrough."

assured his generals that everything not absolutely essential for defense had been withdrawn from the Eastern Front for the offensive. The attack would begin on Dec. 16.

On the appointed day, the Germans burst across the front behind a torrent of shells. The Americans, accustomed to fighting with air support, had none on this occasion. Some units had arrived, so recently that not all their weapons were ready. The weight and pace of the advance out of the mists unnerved many Americans.

"The American public," Carlo D'Este wrote in "Decision in Normandy," has never been told "the real truth about the behavior of certain units during the early stages of the Ardennes counteroffensive in December 1944, when hundreds of American troops fled to the safety of the rear in sheer panic."

Maj. Donald P. Boyer, operations officer of the 28th Armored Infantry Battalion at the Poteau crossroads on Dec. 17, described the retreat toward St. Vith to his superiors thusly: "It wasn't orderly; it wasn't military; it wasn't a pretty sight — we were seeing American soldiers running away."

#### Near-panics

These and other near-panics among American troops can be attributed to a number of causes.

The first is that although replacements had been made in the original Normandy units whose losses had been high, the broad front strategy Eisenhower and his staff had evolved for the invasion of Germany called for additional fresh divisions. Most of those called up to the front, had seen no action.

Now they were hit in their first combat by highly trained, dedicated German troops. The result bore out an old British military axiom: "You don't know war until you have fought the Germans." Most of the fresh American units had been sent to what their leaders regarded as a relatively quiet sector of the front where, it was hoped, the uninitiated could learn their trade in small operations. In the words of a pre-World War I German general, "They had to be shot over a little."

When the test came, it was not by infantry patrols, but by a savage onslaught of half a million men armed with the best tanks in the world and commanded by experienced and able officers.

Given the situation along the front in December 1944, the American dispositions, in retrospect, do not appear foolhardy. Field formations and the high command saw little prospect of significant German operations for the rest of the year. Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, commanding the British 21st Army

Group, had written Eisenhower requesting leave in England over Christmas to visit his son. The G-2 intelligence unit officer of the American First Army, Col. Benjamin A. (Monk) Dickson, was scheduled for a long-overdue leave in Paris.

The view that the Germans were incapable of launching more than minor local counteroffensives pervaded the Allied command and seeped down to lower echelons. Consequently, when the Germans struck their first blows on Dec. 16, the almost unanimous interpretation was that these were local counterattacks. This opinion prevailed for fully 48 hours, by which time the strength of the German offensive was evident to embattled G.I.'s all along the front. German gains were not that impressive initially; two or three miles at best. But the Germans kept ferrying tanks across the region's rivers and were moving their artillery and infantry forward, a promise of greater blows to come.

As the attack gathered power, some American units folded, but the majority stood firm and fought. The 90th Infantry Division, was driven back but rallied and fought desperately to block the Sixth S.S. Panzer Army, commanded by Lieut. Gen. Josef (Sepp) Dietrich, when it tried to break through Elsenborn Ridge and get astride the main road to Liege.

When Dietrich, an S.S. bully boy of the type Hitler admired, failed to break the line, the leadership of the offensive was turned over to Lieut. Gen. Hasso von Manteuffel, a descendant of a famous family of Prussian generals. His Fifth Panzer Army had earlier smashed through the United States 106th Infantry Division and, the 14th Cavalry group defending St. Vith. On the Schnee Eifel, a rugged range of mountains amid fields and streams, Manteuffel's troops forced two regiments of 7,000 men to surrender on Dec. 19 in what is considered the most serious tactical defeat suffered by Americans in 1944-1945.

Meanwhile, the American position had deteriorated elsewhere. The First S.S. Panzer Division, with Lieut. Col. Joachim Peiper's battle group in the lead, drove hard to outflank Liege from the south and seize the crossings of the Meuse at Huy. German Panther and Tiger tanks, bigger and better-armed than anything in the American armory, knifed through into the area held by the Seventh Armored Division.

Peiper was brave, resourceful and lucky. Had he arrived earlier, he would have encountered a combat command of the armored division. As it was, he met only a field-artillery observation battalion that came under punishing fire from German tanks and guns.

The Americans abandoned their vehicles, threw away their arms and hid in ditches or sought the shelter of a nearby forest. Those who were not able to escape were rounded up by the Germans and put under light guard, while Peiper, impatient at the delay, started his main force on the way to Ligneuville.

It was this that prompted the infamous Malmédy massacre, where about 150 American prisoners were herded into a meadow on Dec. 17 and mowed down by S.S. troopers of a follow-up force. The official United States Army history estimates that by Dec. 20, Peiper's command had murdered approximately 300 American prisoners of war and 100 Belgian civilians along its line of march.

The impact of the massacres on the Americans was cumulative and severe. Units going into the line heard of them. Pilots being briefed for operations were told. German soldiers, especially those wearing the distinctive S.S. insignia, found surrender a risky business. Not that many of them ever surrendered; the men of the S.S. generally died fighting.

#### Ninth held fast

The massacres were episodes in a developing battle that continued to go badly for the Americans. The only favorable developments were on the breakthrough's northern shoulder, where the First and Ninth Infantry Divisions, two of the Army's most experienced, held fast against the Germans in stubborn, bitter fighting in snow and mud. But a third division, the 99th, lost 2,000 men in the fighting.

More were lost to Manteuffel's Fifth Panzer Army, which had torn a hole from 10 to 12 miles wide in the American line. Outgunned by the Panthers and Tigers, American formations were swept aside. Three Panzer divisions followed by two infantry divisions were on the move. By dawn on Dec. 18, only Bastogne stood between Manteuffel and the crossings of the Meuse.

In retrospect, the reaction at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force was slow. Not until the evening of Dec. 18 did Eisenhower and his staff see the German operation as a major offensive. The following morning, Eisenhower called a meeting of his staff and senior commanders at Verdun. There he made the moves that sealed the fate of the Nazi operation.

Turning to Patton, Eisenhower asked him how long it would take to mount a counterattack from the south with at least six divisions. Patton's answer was typical: "As soon as you're through with me." Patton added that he could get three divisions on the road by the 21st. Eisenhower said he would settle for the 22d or 23d.

What followed was one of Patton's great military feats, one more important to the Allied cause than some of his widely publicized advances across France. Having previously issued orders in anticipation of Eisenhower's decision, Patton turned the Fourth Armored and the 80th Infantry Divisions north. The 28th was put on alert.

The Fourth Armored Division of Patton's Third Army had been selected to move along the highway from Arlon to Bastogne and relieve the besieged 101st Airborne. His 28th and 80th Infantry Divisions, both experienced and rested after periods out of the

frontline, were to advance through the countryside east of that road.

The Fourth Armored Division, which had played a starring role in Patton's advance across France, ran into considerable trouble on the drive to Bastogne, in the southeastern section of the Ardennes. The tanks ran into stubborn resistance by German paratroopers backed by antitank batteries. Infantry from the 80th Division was brought in to support the attack.

It was not until late on Dec. 26 that the Fourth Armored Division ended the siege of Bastogne. Again, Patton and his staff gave the orders, but it was the soldiers and field commanders who won the battle.

Bastogne, although better known to the public, was not the only fortress in the path of the Germans. St. Vith was another. The American defenders had been reinforced by the Seventh Armored Division. Together they fought as bitter and costly a battle as the war knew. Manteuffel surrounded most of the town but he could not take it despite a week of armored and infantry attacks.

#### Avoid being surrounded

To avoid being surrounded, the Americans staged a strategic withdrawal on Dec. 21, heading northwest along the only available road. Manteuffel turned his attention to Bastogne, held by the Tenth Armored Division.

There he encountered not only the 10th but also the 101st Airborne Division, the "Screaming Eagles," which had been rushed to Bastogne from rest billets in France. The 101st, like all airborne units, was accustomed to being surrounded and fighting its way out. Its leader, Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, took over command.

As the G.I.'s put it, there was "no dog" in the Germans, meaning they were courageous and would not surrender. They attacked again and again. But despite capturing large amounts of gasoline on their way west, they were running short of fuel. And they were learning that the Americans were quick to improvise defensive positions and were stubborn in holding them. Both sides suffered from the damp, biting cold and snow that hampered movement.

#### Go to hell

On Dec. 22, Gen. Heinrich (Smilo) von Luttwitz called on the garrison to surrender. McAuliffe replied, "Nuts," which the German staff officer did not understand. When it was translated into "Go to Hell," Luttwitz got the message.

Eisenhower, meanwhile, had made one of the most controversial command changes of the war. He placed the American First and Ninth Armies, north of the breakthrough, under the command of Britain's Field Marshal Montgomery but left Patton's Third Army, driving north to relieve Bastogne, under Bradley. About 60,000 fresh American troops were moved into the Ardennes on Dec. 19 and another 180,000 were sent in during the next eight days.

From the outset, cloudy skies, snow and rain had favored Hitler. The depleted Luftwaffe had made a few successful attacks, but the vastly superior Allied air forces had been tied to their bases by bad weather. Now the weather changed and on Dec. 23, Allied fighters and fighter bombers in France and Belgium rose from their bases and swept down on the German formations.

Tanks, guns and trucks jammed on the narrow roads were hammered. Railroad yards at Bingen, Coblenz and Gerolstein that had nourished the offensive were smashed by heavy bombers. German tanks and infantry could not move in the field without inviting swarms of Allied planes.

Manteuffel made one last desperate attempt to reach the Meuse River. A force bypassed Bastogne and reached Celles four miles from the river. There the spearhead was intercepted and destroyed by the American Second Armored — "Hell on Wheels" — Division. At almost the same time, Patton drove into the German's southern flank.

A triangular bulge 60 miles deep and 60 miles wide at its base, which gave its name to the battle, had been driven into the American lines. Now, thanks to the stubborn bravery of the American troops, the incessant and deadly activity of the Allied air forces and the general exhaustion of German troops, the enemy's forward movement had stopped.

#### Forward movement stopped

The British 21st Army Group joined the battle on Jan. 4. Attacking the northern flank of the bulge, it cut the distance to Bradley's forces by eight miles after a week's fighting. The British attack was successful, if tardy in starting. It did not support Montgomery's later self-congratulatory comments on the key role he had played in the battle, comments that would bring his relations with Eisenhower to a crisis.

The honors of the final days of the battle lay with the American and British air forces. The Royal Air Force provided close support for ground operations, attacked German airfields and flew armed reconnaissance. The Germans were stuck, reduced to movement by night as daytime actions brought instant attack.

The German generals in the field pleaded with Hitler for limited withdrawals. On Jan. 8, he agreed. The 47th Panzer Corps, which had made the deepest penetration, was pulled back, suffering seriously as it retreated. The Sixth S.S. Panzer Army was placed in reserve. On Jan. 13, Hitler ordered a general retreat. By Jan. 21, the Germans were back on the line from which they had begun the offensive. On Jan. 28th, 1945, the Battle of the Bulge was officially over, with the enemy pushed back into Germany.

The scars it left were psychological as well as physical. The American Army that moved on into Germany was more prudent as well as battlewise. Maj. Gen. Manton S. Eddy, who commanded the XII Corps said, "One lesson, never underestimate your enemy, 'specially if you're fighting the Krauts.'"

The butcher's bill was high. The Germans suffered 100,000 killed, wounded and captured; the Allies 81,000, 77,000 of them Americans. This is the heaviest battle toll in American history.

Hitler's great gamble had failed.



## Christmasses long remembered

Cannon Co 47th Inf.  
C Co. 39th Inf.  
FRANK J. LORITO  
R.D. 4 Box 1499  
Honesdale, Pa. 18431

Like most of the old 9th men, I always look forward to receiving and reading the Octofoil hoping to see a familiar name. Now we've gotten to that point in life when we read a letter from someone we know, it may not be good news. It was with great sorrow in reading Buddy Bascone's letter I learned of Chet Zajkowski's death. How well I remember Chet. In my estimation he was probably the best artillery man we had in the company. He was one of the men sent over from the artillery when they formed the Cannon Company. I had Buddy Bascone and Chet to thank for learning enough to become a gunner on that old 105 Howitzer just before the invasion. By the way, Bud, is it right you add, left you subtract, or vice versa? I really don't remember.

At this time I want to wish Happy Holidays to old friends of the 9th Div. My wife, Florence, and I are looking forward to spending Christmas with our two boys, their wives and our one and only grandson, out in Southampton, L.I. Come to think of it, it will be a far cry from those four Christmases I spent in the Army.

1941 - I was a member of C Co. 39th Inf. at which time we were pulled back to Ft. Bragg after doing guard duty at Wilmington, N.C. shipyards. We were given 1 week furlough instead of the 2 we were supposed to get, before the Pearl Harbor bombing. Needless to say this was not a Happy Christmas.

1942 - Landed in Casa Blanca on Christmas Eve on my way to join Cannon Co. 47th Inf. Walked about five miles before putting up pup tents in the dark. Woke up Christmas morning, stuck my head out of the tent and the first thing I saw was a couple of natives and their donkeys. For a moment I thought I was in the Holy Land for the birth of Christ.

1943 - Spent Christmas Day lying on a cot in an old wooden barrack at the Northington Grange, England with 102 fever.

1944 - Christmas Day was on my way back to France on an old British tub after having spent six months in the hospital.

It's those four Christmas experiences that make me appreciate the fact that I am still around to spend this Christmas with my loved ones.

Attention Charlie Bilello: I'm sorry I'm talking about the yesterdays again. After all, how can we appreciate what we have today and hope to have tomorrow if we didn't go through yesterday. Honestly, I wouldn't want to go through those times again but I wouldn't give up the experience for anything. During those yesterdays I had the good fortune of meeting you and so many more great guys. I'm not surprised to see that you are into volunteer work, Charlie, even in the old days you were always ready to go out of your way to help a guy out.

Especially at this time of the year we should remember in our prayers the 4581 buddies we left behind. I'm wondering if anyone ever noticed that in those four digits, the first two add up to 9 and the last two add up to 9. Irony, isn't it?



Frank Lorito, Cannon Company 47th Inf, sends this picture taken in England before the invasion - standing left to right: Chet Zajkowski, Ernie Cadell (KIA) Bill Coen, next man unidentified, John Loden (KIA). Kneeling: Buddy Bascone and Duffy Longwell.



Members of the New York Chapter at the presentation of the Division's history "8 Stars to Victory" to the library of Hofstra University on Long Island, N.Y.

### Christmas of 1941

As Commander of Nutley Amvets Post 30, I had the privilege of conducting Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremonies at our Post Headquarters in conjunction with the Nutley Veterans Council.

Some 75 veterans attended and our town Mayor Harry W. Chenoweth and Assemblyman John Kelly. Both spoke and agreed that all we hear about is the atomic bomb we dropped in Japan, but not to forget they dropped the first bombs at Pearl Harbor on us.

Being the host Post, we all gathered inside for some hot coffee and buns. Before long, most of us started to reminisce about where we were the day of December 7, 1941. I then told my story that I was in Charge of Quarters Sergeant at the 47th Infantry Dispensary when news of Pearl Harbor came over the radio. In a matter of a few hours, the 9th Division was alerted and dispersed all around the Fort Bragg area guarding railroad bridges and road bridges leading to the camp.

I was sent out with the 1st Battalion of the 47th Infantry in charge of medics for about four weeks. During this time, the holidays arrived. It was Christmas Eve and some of us were playing cards under a flickering Coleman lantern and a hot wood tent stove. The Sergeant in Charge of the battalion said that in another hour our folks back home would be celebrating Christmas Eve waiting for Santa but that somehow he still had a little belief in Santa. One of the fellows who had just come in from guard duty at the bridge at Muddy Creek said that it was so dark out that night that even Santa with Rudolf wouldn't be able to find our tent. He no sooner got through talking when someone was trying to get in our tent. When the Sergeant opened the tent flap, in came a local farmer and his young son carrying two large bags of Christmas goodies and drinks. When the guard came back from escorting the farmer back to the road, he said "From now on I agree with the Sergeant, there is a real Santa."

If some of you fellows remember this episode that Christmas, I would like to hear from you as I will never forget it. Regards to all.

47th Medics and  
9th Medical Bn.  
ANDY ANDRIOLA  
33 Clover St.  
Nutley, NJ 07110

### New Yorkers

Election of Officers for the coming year was held in November by the New York Chapter members with the following members elected to office: President Mathew McCormack, 1st V.P. George Apar, 2nd V.P. James Mullens, Secretary Art Schmidt, Treasurer Irv Feinberg, Sgt. at Arms Al Orletti. Board of Governors representing the 47th Inf., Norman Caswell, 39th Inf., Hermino Suarez, 60th Inf. Charles Libretto, Arty Jim Hourtunian, Special Troops Adolph Wadalavage.

Installation will take place at the January 3, 1986 meeting to be held in the Armory on 25th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York City.

60th Inf F Co  
JOHN MILLER  
1511 Cochise Dr.  
Arlington, Tx. 76012

Dear Friends of the 9th Inf Div. It looks like the Millers are really enjoying retirement. Travel has been uppermost on the schedule this year.

Starting the year off we flew to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands in February. Even though weather here was not too cold, it was a pleasant change to be at the beach. Next, Jean took a cruise in the Orient to accompany a friend whose husband could not go. They flew to Hong Kong and then visited mainland China before boarding their ship that went to Manila, Bali, Jakarta and Singapore. Quite an excursion but so good to get home. It always makes one appreciate all that we take for granted.

Our next trip was to drive east with the object of the 9th Division Convention in Orlando, Florida. A leisurely auto trip took us through the Carolinas down to Florida visiting friends along the way. It's such a lovely way to see the country. We headed back to Texas for the summer to care for yard, etc. and hot weather is not Jean's preferred time to travel.

After John W. finished some consulting work, we took off again for the west to see the sights in Arizona, Las Vegas and New Mexico. The scenery was breathtaking and it's hard to say one could find more beautiful anywhere in the world.

The finish of our year's travel was the opportunity to fly to Kiawah Island, S.C. with our son and his wife who were attending a convention. The weather cooperated and Charleston is such a beautiful, historical city.

We've so much to be thankful for this year with good health the top of the list. We're so happy to have Keith and Rhonda living here in Arlington not far away so we do see them often. This time of year deer hunting was on the minds of the men of the family with the usual good results. They were invited to the Bryson Ranch and they were the good shooters and got two bucks the first day. John W. especially enjoys visiting with Walter and swapping war stories. Walter member of COF 60th Inf.

We hope this finds you all happy and in good health. We're looking forward to hearing the news of your families. You're cordially invited to visit us should you be passing through Texas. Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

47th Inf. C Co.  
GEROGE GAJDOS  
435 Daniel Dr.  
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Sending dues for the next 3 years. I enjoy the Octofoil very much and look forward to receiving it. I haven't been able to attend any of the reunions but it's beginning to look like I'll make Nashville. Hoping to see some of my old buddies there. Happy Holidays to one and all.

9th Signal  
JAMES-W. BROWN  
Box 204  
Roseboro, N.C. 28382

I noticed it is time to renew my membership card again so I am enclosing a check for 1 year. I enjoy reading the Octofoil paper very much. Also something enclosed for the Memorial fund.

60th FA B Btry  
CLAIR McKEE  
2474 C 139  
McComb, Ohio 45858

I'm late again with my dues so here's 3 more years so I won't be late for a long time now. Retired 2 1/2 years but either I'm getting busier or getting slower, I don't know but feeling fine and hope you folks are too. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

60th Inf D Co  
JAMES T. CANADA  
PO Box 434  
Shannon, Ga. 30172

I don't know what has happened to all the old D Co men. I hear from Paul Pelish once in a while and talk to Jack Clark at the flea market. I didn't go to the reunion in Orlando but hope to make Nashville. I've been retired for over 9 years and still haven't caught up with my work around home yet. Hope to see some letters from guys in my outfit.

39th Inf G Co  
WILLARD C. HAYES  
3441 Lynn Dr.  
Franklin, Ohio 45005

I visited the ILL-MICH reunion for the first time this year. Never knew anyone but everyone was just like an old comrade. Enjoyed the banquet. See you in Nashville.

47th Inf. I Co. & Hq Co. I & R  
LAWRENCE MARTIN  
1418 Blair Loop Rd.  
Danville, Va. 24541

Wishing you and all 9th men and families the best of Holiday Seasons. May God bless you for the New Year. I enjoy the Octofoil very much. Still wonder the whereabouts of so many I've lost contact with over the years. Does anyone know about Charles Kull, Earnie Templeton or Joe Bennett? I was up to visit Bob Kinkopf this past May. We fought the war all over again. He has many pictures of the 9th made in Germany. Bob's address is 10640 Fairmont Rd., Newburg, Ohio 44065. Drop him a line. I visited Spencer Norwood twice in Sarasota but now he has moved to Bradenton, Fl. Planned to visit Pete Smalley and Chris Patterer but both have passed away of late. I'll never forget the keg of beer we picked up in Aachen while we were in Vicht, Germany. Bob Kinkopf, Spencer Norwood and I killed deer up in the hills above Vicht. We had venison on the O.P. near Gressenich, thanks to the good cooks back in Vicht. We even had a steak or two on that O.P. Plenty of beef running loose and an apple orchard if you picked them between shell fire. If any 9th men come this way, stop and call 792-7501 and I'll make them welcome. I see Carl Taylor and Wesley Roach now and then as they live near me.

39th Inf  
EUGENE PRIMERANO  
140 Webster Rd.  
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

Just a note to let you know that I am sending my check renewing my membership for another 3 years. As you may know I spent 1941 and 1942 with the 39th HQ, then sent to Fort Monmouth from whence I was made a 2nd Lt. and spent the next 26 years in the active and reserve Signal Corps. The 9th always had a special place in my heart, it was the beginning of my army career. My best to all, and Bless you for all the hard work you do for the Association.



## MAIL CALL

47th Inf M Co  
JOHN KNIGHT  
65 Yorktown Rd  
Mountaintop, Pa. 18707

The letter is addressed to those who haven't heard of the masterpiece written by Lt. Red Phillips entitled "Heavy Weapons" and were they heavy, the tripod weighed 51 lbs. This book is an actual blow by blow description of our war, from the time we hit the beaches at Safi to its conclusion. Reading this book is reliving the past. What a memory Red has, 43 years later. For those of us who did not finish the krieg with M Co, through no fault of our own, are brought up to date of the happenings. Many of the men we soldiered with were K.I.A. I wish to thank our former company commander publicly for his wonderful history of M Co. His address is 14002 Hemlock Dr., Penn Valley, Cal. 95946.

47th Inf Cannon Co  
WILLIAM COEN  
3322 SE 24th St  
Okeechobee, FL 33474

Greetings from Florida. We came down here for good about Nov. 1st. Had a good summer and sorry I didn't get to make the Memorial in Worcester. I was in Great Lakes and Pa about that time. Please note new address.

60th Inf L Co  
Edwin Brewer  
222 Park Ave  
Maryville, Mo. 64468

Ed sends his 1986 dues and something for the Memorial fund. Will be in Nashville next June to have a drink with some of his 9th buddies.

26 FA Hq & Hq Btry  
BRUNO ADAMIK  
5415 S. Natoma  
Chicago, IL. 60638

It is dues time again and I will be gone for 3 months. I will be sunning my time in Hawaii with the Mrs. at my daughter in laws home. What alive! Happy Holidays to one and all from the 9th Div. Assn. Aloha.

60th FA, A Bty  
MICHAEL PATRICK  
156 Austin Ave  
Tappan, N.Y. 10983

I am planning a trip to Europe next spring or early summer and I would appreciate any assistance concerning itinerary, lodging, etc. We plan to begin in England then on to France, Belgium, Germany, following as much as possible the route of the 9th during 1944-45. My family and I are well. I am retired after 33 years with the N.Y. Telephone Co. One of our 5 children is married and a second is planning to be married early in 1986. Would like to hear from anyone from A Btry, 60th FA. I hear from Mike Belmonte, Dom Greco, Pat Passarella and Al Friedmeir periodically. Will not be in Worcester but hope to attend Nashville.

15th Engrs  
ALEX FORREST  
241 N. Vine St. Apt. 702W  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

The Orlando reunion was well executed, a very wonderful reunion. The enclosed Check for the Memorial fund is in memory of Walter A. Mills and Thomas M. Gray, 15th Engr. Bn.

June 26-28  
Reunion in Nashville

9th Med Bn C Co  
ANDY KOPACH  
2010 Hackett Ave.  
Easton, Pa. 18042

I couldn't make the Orlando reunion, have been doctoring for a heart problem. Hoping to make the Nashville reunion and to see the fellows from C Co 9th Med Bn.

60th Inf F Co  
ROBERT WALDVOGEL  
2026 Chapin St.  
So. Bend, Ind. 46613

The Weehawken address sure brings back memories of my short stay at Camp Shanks on our way to join the 9th. Many 4AM train rides back to Shanks to get 1 or 2 hrs. sleep only to return to N.Y. the next night. Luckily this was for only 2 weeks. We caught up with our sleep on the S.S. LaJune on our way to England. Enclosed are my dues for another 3 years and a little for the Memorial Fund. I would like to hear from anyone with the 4th platoon during the time from ST. LO to the Meuse river crossing.

60th Inf. D Co.  
CHARLES WALKER  
RR1 Box 158  
Fairfield, IL. 62837

I received word of the death of Lloyd Vest on Nov. 13. He had heart complications. He joined the division in 1940 and transferred to another division later on. Was wounded in France and everyone will remember him for his fast answers and quick wit. I served all the way from Ft. Bragg to Germany and was lucky not to be wounded. After the war, my wife and I bought a farm and was in the dairy business until I retired. We reared 2 sons & 2 daughters and have 5 grandchildren. We attended the Ill. Chapter reunion in Sept. at the Clark's home. Best wishes to all 9th men and especially Co. D 60th Inf.

Co. E 47th Inf.  
MRS. HELEN WALOWSKI  
812 Hobbs Dr.  
Joliet, IL. 60435

Just a note to say I am still around and enjoy your paper. My husband Matt has been gone 14 years and I still remember the good times we had in Detroit and Canada. I see in your paper a man by the name of Leo Gully wrote in. The first time I ever met him and his wife was at the Detroit reunion and we had a good time. They drove us all the way home to Joliet as they don't live too far from here. We still exchange Christmas cards. Merry Christmas to all.

A-T 47th Inf.  
GEORGE REMALEY  
Box 437-A, RD 1  
Natoma Heights, Pa. 15065

I missed the reunion in Florida but hope to make Nashville. I met a fellow from Pittsburgh who was in the 39th and his name was Paul (didn't get his last name). I have his copy of 8 Stars and would like to return it to him, so I hope he reads this letter or writes to me as he has my address. I miss all the gang and also the new friends I made.

60th Inf A Co  
ROLLAND J. CORRELL  
1329 Nevada St.  
Allentown, Pa. 18103

Enclosed is a check for my 1986 dues. I enjoy reading the Octofoil so keep up the good work. You and your family and the 9th division have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

60th Inf Co D  
JOHN E. THORNTON  
PO Box 3782 Mdse, Mart Sta.  
Chicago, IL. 60654

I am doing fairly good for an ole GOAT of 77, slowing down here and there a little. Do some part time on the elevators at the Mart & Opera House when needed. It gives me something to do and the extra \$ comes in handy. Sure hope the coming year will bring improved working conditions and World Peace everywhere, we sure can stand both. All the hijacking on planes and boats, one is not safe anyplace anymore. Must sign off for now, so keep up your good work, take care of yourself and do have a real nice holiday season and this goes for all the 9th Div members, lets all count our Blessings.

60th Inf K Co  
RUSSELL J. WOOMER  
PO Box 6  
Watertown, Ohio 45787

Just a line to express my appreciation for the Octofoil you sent me. I would like to hear from some of the guys from K Co that I served with 1944-1945 especially Capt. Barbemell. He helped me during that time of my life.

47th Inf Hq's 2nd Bn  
HOWARD FITZPATRICK  
2 Overdale Drive  
Louisville, Ky. 40229

Enclosed find dues for 3 more years. I enjoy reading the Octofoil and keeping up with the news. Am now retired and enjoying fishing, hunting and just living it up. I was with the division at Ft. Bragg until we went overseas in Nov. 1942 and landed at Safi. I fought with the 9th from Africa until we were stopped on the Elbe river in Germany to link up with the Russians. We sure did lose a lot of good men along the way. It looks like I will never forget it. Some nites I dream about being over there again only to wake up and find it was only a dream. Thank God! I will never forget the big snows we had in the winter. We were in the big forest of Germany and both sides had slowed up the fighting. We were told to dig a big fox hole enough for a squad to sleep in and covered it with pine logs which we cut down, covered it with dirt then put our shelter halves over the dirts, it sure took a lot of hard work, but it probably saved our lives as the Germans shelled our position all the time. I would like to hear from the men that were there with me. Keep up the good work.

47th Inf G Co  
FRANK (SONNY) GONZALEZ  
Box 231  
Millington, Md. 21651

Enclosed find dues for John Griglak, RDI, Dunbar, Pa who was a member of G Co 47th. He didn't know there was an association until I told him. Give my regards to Vince Guglielmino, Jerry Shapiro, George Bako, Ed Combs, Frank Gonzol, Mike Sanchez, Hermaon Rahn, Louis Rullen and Perry Grady, whom I haven't seen since the Hurtgen Forest.

60th Inf K Co  
JOHN CRIMI  
95 Harvard St.  
Hartford, Ct. 06106

I was put in touch with you through Richard Trahey of Sarasota, FL. I met them in Nashville Aug. 1st. Looking forward to my membership with such a fine group and meeting some of the boys.

JOHN J. CLOUSER  
P.O. BOX 368  
BETMORE, MI. 49825

John Clouser  
1008 North Circle Drive No. 402820  
Crystal River, FL. 32629  
412  
Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1987

47th Inf. Co. E  
JOHN P. HYNES  
Lot 46 on 15th St. SMHP  
Sarasota, FL. 34278

Just a note with my dues to let you know I am well and a lot of my good health being my leaving the Bronx. I miss New York but it is not the same as years ago. I am happy with the warm climate and no fret when Labor Day came up in New York, it was then down here for the winter. I keep busy at 2 candlelight dining sites for seniors. It is just enough.

60th Inf. F Co.  
CHARLES FUSNER  
6700 Marcos Ave.  
Orlando, FL. 32809

I joined the association at the Orlando reunion and enjoyed talking with Alan Johnson who was my company CO at the time when I was captured after crossing the Meuse River. Also got to talk with Matt Urban and some of the other F Co. men. We have all changed so much in 40 years but things that happened help place us together so we could remember that at least.

47th Inf. G Co. & Hq 2nd Bn  
JEROME SHAPIRO  
739 W 186th St.  
New York, N.Y. 10033

The New Yorkers Christmas party was great, plenty of food and drink and dancing. Even our 3 grandchildren attended and many of the boys danced with Jackie (5½ years old) and she had a fine time. On to Nashville! Everyone write to their buddies to attend this reunion in June. May God protect that great and unselfish human being Fr. Connors. His 9th division family will always pray for him. All the best to everyone.

47th Inf. G Co.  
MIKE SANCHEZ  
505 Linden Ave.  
Kinston, N.C. 28501

The Florida Chapter went out of their way to show us a great time and they deserve a big congratulation for a wonderful job well done. I also met Bob Pappas who is from my hometown "The Quad Cities." It was a memorable reunion as I got to see my old sarge who flew in from Puerto Rico, Louis Rullen. Also Hermon Rahn from North Carolina and Frank Gonzales and his wife from Maryland. We will not forget the Huertgen Forest! Two months ago my wife and I retired and moved to North Carolina. There is a group of 9th division people here and they invited us with open arms. It makes me feel proud to say I belong to the 9th.

60th Inf K Co  
JAMES DRONEY  
1817 Banksville Rd.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216

One of the highlights of my highlighted life was attending the Lake Placid reunion and bs'ing with Ed Stokan and his friends and my old company K commander, Pat Williamson who is nearly 2 years older than me and I was 21 when I served under him. We had a great time and I looked forward to the Orlando reunion but couldn't make it. Good Health and Good Luck.

39th Inf. A Co.  
WILLIAM MORRISON  
104 Grapefruit Dr.  
Jasmine Lakes  
Port Richey, FL. 33568

Just to let you know I am still alive and enjoying the salubrious weather here in Florida! I am now 75 years of age and still moving around. Had I know I would have lived this long I most certainly would have taken better care of myself in my younger days. Only kidding! I play golf 3 or 4 days a week even tho' I had a hip replacement 2 years ago. Drives get shorter each year and handicap is now up to 14 but it is still a great feeling to be out there with the boys! I read the Octofoil from front to back but seldom see names I recognize. Just by chance if any of the following should read this I would appreciate hearing from them: Dinty Moore, Flash Sadler, Casper Thomson and Rudy of Wisconsin.

60th Inf. 1st Bn  
JOHN K. MOORE  
2200 38th Ave. W  
Apt. R14-326  
Bradenton, FL. 33505

For once I hope to escape that "Red Ink Stigma", by sending my dues in without that reminder.

The years have sort of caught up with me, I am racing Father Connors to the 81 mark (March in my case), and I am a bit more quiet than in the old days, but still, fortunately, with no major complaints.

Again, my sincere thanks to you and to your good wife for all the work and effort you put into the Octofoil every year. It is really the cement that keeps our Association bound together, and I now we are all indebted to you for the work you do.

Have a good Christmas, and a Healthy New Year.

9th Signal  
WILLIAM MILLER  
507 Eskridge Dr.  
Wilmington, De. 19809

Enclosed are my dues for the company year and something extra for the Scholarship Memorial Fund. Sorry I could not make Orlando this summer as I had planned to attend. From the reports, everyone had a good time. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

60th Inf I Co  
ROGER SCHAEFER  
1664 Sunset Ave  
Akron, Ohio 44301

My dues are due and since I don't look good in red I'm enclosing 3 years worth. In the last issue of the Octofoil I took special notice of Fr. Connors' letter on the front page. What a tremendous man! Also noted letters from Al Hodge and Chick Hennen and Adolf Wadalavage. 9th Division comrades are the greatest.



THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE Feb. 20th.